

lems forced upon us with increasing intensity by the rapidly accelerating increase in our population, an increase which threatens to engulf us with its unprecedented demands for governmental services. Have we achieved our goal? Have we reached our objective?

I think we have.

We have not attempted to legislate. We have not attempted to solve all the problems of the present nor those of either the immediate or the distant future. However, we have, I believe, provided a structure of government for our State which can solve these problems and at the same time we have stated in simple, but, nevertheless, very precise terms, those fundamental rights of our citizens which shall forever be free from governmental control or restriction. In doing so, I believe we have also avoided the pitfalls which have beset recent attempts at constitutional revision in some of our sister states.

We have not drafted a constitution for labor or for big business, for one religious group or another, for civil libertarians or stand-patters, for liberals or conservatives, for one political party or another, or indeed for any one group of citizens. Instead, we have drafted a constitution for the citizens of Maryland, all of them, rich and poor, black and white, young and old. In so doing, we have drafted a constitution which, I am confident, will be ratified overwhelmingly by the people of Maryland on May 14, 1968. And this may be regarded as what Delegate Beachley, very aptly, I think, describes as the "Annapolis Achievement."

This result did not just happen. It occurred because 142 very dedicated and hardworking men and women were determined that it should happen. High hopes were expressed for this Convention when it convened in September, 1967, but I dare say there was no one who would have prophesied then that after four months of unremitting toil and debate, much of which could have been so divisive as to cause scars which would never have healed, this Convention would have been able to draft a constitution approved by the nearly unanimous vote of all the delegates. This bodes well for the acceptance of the constitution by the people of Maryland and may be regarded also, I think as a part of the Annapolis Achievement.

The delegates to this Convention come from every section of the State, from every walk of life, from every social strata and

many different occupations; they have different points of view, different philosophies of government, different philosophies of life, different religious beliefs, different educational backgrounds. In four months of day-to-day work on a common objective, they have learned much of the other fellow's point of view and have developed respect for it without losing their own point of view. They have talked, but also have listened, and debated intensely, both in committee and on the floor of the Convention. All of this has not only resulted in the establishment of warm friendships, put in a clearer understanding on the part of all of them of the problems, the desires, the interests of the people in different areas of the State. This is a tremendously cohesive force for the benefit of the whole State. It too is a part of the "Annapolis Achievement."

Last July this Convention honored me by selecting me as its President. I have, since then, endeavored to perform the duties of that high office to the very best of my ability. Any success that I have been able to achieve has been due in no small part to the greatest degree of cooperation from each and every delegate that the president of any assembly ever had. It is the sincerest compliment that could be paid to me and it is the one I cherish most. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, each and every one.

*(The delegates to the Constitutional Convention, the officers, the staff, the press, and the visitors rose and applauded.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

All of us have long awaited this moment when we could have the privilege of hearing the closing address by the Honorary President of this Convention and the man who more than any other delegate has made it possible.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Tawes and requests that he come forward to the reading desk.

*(The delegates rose and applauded.)*

DELEGATE TAWES: Mr. President, fellow delegates to the 1967-1968 Constitutional Convention of the State of Maryland: We are approaching the closing moments of this historic convention, and before we reach the hour of adjournment *sine die*, I respectfully request your indulgence for a few minutes, as I would like to leave a few thoughts with you before we depart for our respective homes later today.